

I. Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): ~~The invention of claim 6 wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned around the entire lateral periphery of said inner construct, but is positioned on less than 50% of the periphery of said inner construct.~~ A composite tubular hockey stick shaft comprising:

a) an outer tubular composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix;

b) an inner tubular composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix; and

c) an elastomer layer disposed between the inner and outer tubular constructs, wherein said elastomer layer is positioned on less than 50% of the lateral periphery of said inner construct.

8. (currently amended): ~~The invention of claim 1 wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.~~ A composite tubular hockey stick shaft comprising:

a) an outer tubular composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix;

b) an inner tubular composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix; and

c) an elastomer layer disposed between the inner and outer tubular constructs, wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.

9. (currently amended): The invention of claim 8 wherein said elastomer layer ~~is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct, but~~ is positioned on less than 50% thereof along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): ~~The invention of claim 2 wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned around the entire lateral periphery of said inner construct, but is positioned on less than 50% of the periphery of said inner construct.~~ A composite tubular hockey stick shaft comprising:

a) an inner composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix;

b) an outer composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix; and

c) an elastomer layer disposed between the inner and outer composite constructs, wherein said elastomer layer is positioned on less than 50% of the entire lateral periphery of said inner construct.

14. (currently amended): ~~The invention of claim 2 wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.~~ A composite tubular hockey stick shaft comprising:

a) an inner composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix;

b) an outer composite construct comprising one or more plies of uni-directional substantially parallel fibers disposed in a hardened resin matrix; and

c) an elastomer layer disposed between the inner and outer composite constructs, wherein said elastomer layer is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.

15. (currently amended): The invention of claim 14 wherein said elastomer layer ~~is not positioned along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct,~~ but is positioned on less than 50% ~~thereof~~ along the entire longitudinal length of said inner construct.

16. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 3 wherein the step of inserting the lower region of the cured hockey stick shaft into the heel region of the uncured hockey stick blade pre-form further comprises insertion using a rotational motion in which said heel region comprises an open slot into which said lower region is rotated into position, such that upon full insertion, one side of said lower region becomes the back side of said blade portion.~~ A method of manufacturing a hockey stick comprising:

a) providing a tubular cured hockey stick shaft configured at its lower region to be joined to the heel region of a hockey stick blade;

b) providing an un-cured composite hockey stick blade pre-form configured to be joined to the lower region of a the cured hockey stick shaft;

c) inserting the lower region of the cured hockey stick shaft into the heel region of the uncured hockey stick blade pre-form using a rotational motion in which said heel region comprises an open slot into which said lower region is rotated into position, such that upon full insertion, one side of said lower region becomes the back side of said blade portion;

d) inserting the uncured blade pre-form and joined portion of cured shaft composite hockey stick into a mold configured to receive the uncured blade pre-form and at least a portion of the lower region of the cured shaft and to impart the desired exterior shape of the hockey stick blade upon curing; and

e) cure blade pre-form around the interposed lower region of the hockey stick shaft with application of heat.

[end of claims]